

Transfer of Idaho Inmates to Minnesota is Complete

BOISE-All 302 Idaho offenders who are a part of the out of state transfer have arrived safely at the Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minnesota.

The transfer of offenders is always a high security process. Board of Correction rules require all details of the transfer remain confidential to ensure the safety of all involved.

As a service to those with loved ones who were a part of this transfer, the Idaho Department of Correction has added an Out of State link to the official Department website. Family members can find information on how to send mail to the offender, deposit funds into inmate banking and find answers to common questions about the transfer. The link is: <http://www.corrections.state.id.us> then click on "Out of State Information" on the right hand side of the page.

On Friday the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) signed a contract with the Corrections Corporation of America, finalizing the agreement to house Idaho offenders at the Minnesota facility. An IDOC team of administrators traveled to the Prairie Correctional Facility prior to the transfer and selected the prison, in part, because of similarities to Idaho prisons and because the prison has enough space to insure all IDOC offenders are housed together on the same tier. The Prairie Correctional Facility provides education, programming and vocational educational opportunities.

Under the terms of the agreement, incarcerating inmates at the Minnesota facility will cost \$53 per offender, per day. Currently the cost of housing an offender in an Idaho prison facility is \$48 per offender, per day.



This picture was taken at the Boise Airport tarmac on Tuesday morning, October 25th. On that morning the second group of 150 offenders were bussed from the Idaho State Correctional Institution, to the airport where they boarded a chartered 737 for the flight to Minnesota.

Offenders were restrained during the entire process in strap restraints. CERT (Correctional Emergency Response Teams) from the Idaho Correctional Center and the South Boise Complex assisted with security during the transfer process in Boise.

300+ Idaho Department of Correction Offenders To Be Sent Out of State

BOISE-The Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) has reached a contract agreement with Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) to send 302 Idaho offenders to a prison facility in Minnesota. The inmates will transfer from Idaho prisons to the Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minnesota before the end of the month.

"Sending offenders out of state is not our first choice, but it is our only choice. Idaho's prisons and jails can no longer manage inmate growth and our ability to stretch the

system is over,” said Idaho Department of Correction Director Tom Beauclair. “This move creates burdens for our state fiscally and can harden our prison system, but it is what we must do to safely manage our growing offender population.” Two issues prompt this action. Number one, the state currently manages an offender population of nearly 6,700 inmates. Idaho prison beds are full and each institution has been at 100% capacity for more than three years. County jails help manage the overflow but IDOC offenders now take up approximately 550 county jail beds, more than 150 beds than were allocated for such use.

The second issue necessitating this move is a recent federal court ruling that IDOC must remove nearly 200 beds from Idaho State Correctional Institution (ISCI), the state’s largest prison facility, south of Boise. United States District Court Judge James Fitzgerald denied the Department’s request to lift a population cap in several units at ISCI. The court’s decision came at a time when the Department was already in the process of negotiating a contract to send inmates out of state. The ruling meant more offenders must be a part of the transfer.

Under the terms of the agreement, incarcerating inmates at the Minnesota facility will cost taxpayers \$53 per offender, per day. Currently the cost of housing an offender in an Idaho prison facility is \$48 per day.

Approximately 150 offenders volunteered to be a part of the transfer to an out of state prison. The remaining were selected based on criteria including no medical or discipline issues, and no pending parole or legal hearings.

Based on population forecasts for offender growth it is expected IDOC will be sending more inmates out of state this spring. Our population is growing at a rate of approximately 30 offenders per month.

This is not the first time IDOC has sent offenders to out of state prisons.

-Inmates were sent out of state in 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2001.

-They were returned in 1998, 2000, and 2002 as beds were made available at ISCI, at the Idaho Correctional Center (ICC), and as the South Boise Women’s Correction Facility was re-modeled to house female offenders.